

# Summary

The 164th *NZ* issue opens with a selection of materials on a topic that is perhaps unavoidable for any Russian publication of a similar nature preparing to go to print in December of 2025. It is the 200th anniversary of the Decembrist Revolt, an event that marks the beginning of both the revolutionary and liberal traditions in Russia. Both the Soviet regime and its opponents invoked the experience of the conspirators of 1825, their plans for the political, social, and economic transformation of Russia, as well as their very personas. In the current socio-political and cultural situation in the country, the Decembrists and their legacy continue to play an important role and give rise to debate. The above is the focus of the three articles comprising the first thematic block of issue 164, titled “DECEMBER 1825: ITS PRECURSORS AND SUCCESSORS”.

The block opens with Danila Krasnov’s article, “*Distant Relatives: Alexander Radishchev and the Decembrists*”. It offers a brief overview of how Russian and Soviet historiography interpreted the influence of the first major political work in Russian literature – Alexander Radishchev’s “*Journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow*” – on the shaping of the political and ethical views of the future Decembrists. Krasnov points out that, due to ideological tenets originating from Herzen and Lenin, the Soviet tradition tended to exaggerate this influence, portraying the Decembrists as direct “successors” of Radishchev’s revolutionary ideology. Vadim Korolkov’s piece

continues the theme of mythologisation of the events of late 1825 – early 1826, as well as their leading figures. The Soviet myth, which consisted of the Decembrists’ essential canonisation on the one hand, and of their romanticisation by Soviet dissidents of the 1960s–1970s on the other, has since given way to the current Russian regime’s wary and even hostile attitude towards the country’s first revolutionaries. Comparing the late Soviet period to present day, it is especially noticeable in literature and cinema. Such a comparison is the subject of Alexei Makarkin’s article, “*To Take to the Square and Not Wake Herzen: The Decembrists in Contemporary Cinema*”.

This collection of materials is followed by two of the journal’s regular sections. In his column **SOCIOLOGICAL LYRICISM**, Alexei Levinson examines the Russian society’s current attitude towards the Decembrist uprising. **NZ ARCHIVE** features two important historical publications. For the first time, Russian readers are presented with texts that not only helped shape the Decembrists’ views, but also influenced the European political and ideological climate in the first quarter of the 19th century as a whole. These documents date back to the period preceding the French Revolution, and to the start of the Revolution itself.

**NZ ARCHIVE** opens with excerpts from the speech given by Michel-Joseph-Antoine Servan in the Parliament of Grenoble in 1767. Servan, one of the outstanding jurists of his time, outlined the most crucial demands regarding criminal legislation in the Age of Enlightenment. The second material is the list of grievan-



ces of the Third Estate of Paris, drawn up for the Estates General in April 1789. The summoning of the Estates General by Louis XVI ultimately led to a revolutionary outbreak. The key demands for changing the *ancien régime* are presented in this document, which adheres to the main ideas of the Enlightenment. The list of grievances was compiled three months before the storming of the Bastille; among its authors were the astronomer Jean Sylvain Bailly, who would become the first mayor of Paris (guillotined by the Jacobins in 1793), and Joseph-Ignace Guillotin, after whom the guillotine was named. It was his enthusiasm that contributed to the revolutionary National Constituent Assembly recognising, in 1789, the newly invented device as the primary official method of execution.

Aside from the thematic portion, issue 164 of *NZ* contains other regular sections. *ESSAYS ON MORALS* offers a detailed report on the behavior of the Soviet people and government representatives prior to and during the implementation of the monetary reform of 1947. Mikhail Nikolaev paints a picture of general apprehension among Soviet citizens, of attempts to profit from the reform, and of the government's official "ideological and cultural support" for such unpopular measures.

In *POLITICS OF CULTURE*, Konstantin Mitroshenkov analyses Fredric Jameson's

essay "*Periodizing the 60s*", wherein this philosopher and cultural theorist developed some foundations for the theoretical procedure of periodisation, retrospectively – from 1984, when the text was written, looking back to the 1960s with their radical context. Mitroshenkov's article is titled "*From the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s to Postmodernism: Fredric Jameson as a Theorist of Periodisation*".

The *CULTURE OF MODERNITY REVISITED* section features an article by Vadim Mikhailin, devoted to early cinema, primarily German and American. The article focuses on so-called "city symphonies" – films where the city becomes the protagonist ("*You Necessary Film: The Mystical Underbelly of Avant-garde City Symphonies*").

The latest instalment of Tatyana Vorozheykina's column *THE REVERSE OF THE METHOD* is devoted to the first two years of presidency of the Argentine populist Javier Milei, and his party's unexpected (in light of said two-year run) victory in the recent parliamentary election.

As usual, the issue concludes with Alexander Pisarev's *RUSSIAN INTELLECTUAL JOURNALS REVIEW*, as well as the *NEW BOOKS* section, containing Fyodor Nikolai's review of Igor Kobylin's book "*History in a State of Emergency. Essays on Contemporary Historical Consciousness and the Practices of Historiography*".

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